

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RYAN's current budget proposal is a harsh austerity program that seeks to reduce the deficit on the backs of our Nation's most vulnerable while only benefiting the special interests and the Nation's ultrawealthy.

Under this plan, more than 30 million Americans now covered by the Affordable Care Act, including more than 70,000 residents of my district, would be at risk of losing their coverage.

Medicare as we know would cease to exist for more than 5 million future seniors, and over 3.5 million seniors today would lose Medicare preventative care coverage.

This plan also jeopardizes our Nation's economic recovery. The Economic Policy Institute estimates the plan will cost more than 2 million jobs in the next year, reduce the GDP by 1.7 percent, and literally stall the economy through 2017. This is neither the balanced nor rational approach that we need.

I want to work with my colleagues here in the Congress to pass a budget that creates jobs, grows the economy, strengthens the middle class, and responsibly reduces the deficit.

Sadly, this is not that plan.

A CALL FOR JOHN MORTON TO RESIGN

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, released thousands of illegal immigrants out of our detention facilities across the country in anticipation of the sequester cuts. This was done not after the sequester became law or the cuts became reality, but in anticipation.

This is the latest in a string of lapses in judgment by ICE Director John Morton. Because of his repeated questionable actions, I've called on Mr. Morton to resign.

Rather than making commonsense cuts like reducing administrative staffing, cutting overhead, or taking other action, ICE chose to release thousands of known criminals directly onto our streets and into our communities. ICE's justification for this plan is that those individuals will remain in a monitoring program while deportation proceedings are ongoing. Really?

It baffles me that ICE officials continue to insist that someone who has already committed a crime by entering this country illegally would willingly participate in a monitored self-deportation program.

The sequester has started and across-the-board cuts will affect us all, but we cannot stand by while ICE makes irresponsible decisions. I call on John Morton to resign and make a full accounting of this debacle to the American people.

CONGRATULATING EMMANUEL AVILES

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a very special guest of mine today, Emmanuel Aviles from Taunton, Massachusetts, who is visiting Washington with his family.

At just 10 years old, Emmanuel was selected as the grand-prize winner in Scholastic's national Picture a President art contest. His charcoal sketch of Abraham Lincoln earned him that distinguished honor, as well as a 50-book library for his classroom at Parker Middle School and a trip to Washington, D.C.

Emmanuel's teacher back home calls him, "a great role model," who is "eager to learn and help other kids." He practices art drawing every day and hopes to some day pursue a career in art.

Today, Emmanuel is joined in the Capitol by his father, Emmanuel, Sr., his mother, Karen, and his brother, Diego.

I would like to welcome them to Washington and congratulate Emmanuel on making his school, his city, and his State incredibly proud.

Congratulations, Emmanuel.

OPEN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it was just over a week ago that we learned that the White House is being closed to public tours.

Now the President attempts to justify this decision saying it's a Secret Service decision. I find this disturbingly ironic, coming from a President whose own Web site says that it is his mission to "open up the House to as many people as possible," that he is accepting without objection the decision to prevent the American people from accessing the White House, their house, the people's house.

Even during some of the darkest days of America's history, our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, championed the policy of true open doors to the White House and governmental transparency. Contrast that with President Obama who is acquiescing to the exact opposite, closing the White House doors to the public.

If the President is unable to help the Secret Service manage an 8.2 percent budget cut and still keep the people's house open, then the American people are entitled to some answers from their Chief Executive.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget released earlier this week will move us in the wrong direction. It promises us growth through austerity, cutting \$943 billion in discretionary spending, but history has proven that it just won't work.

Time and again, we see when an economy is recovering from a recession and it embraces austerity, the economy tumbles. That's what happened in Europe over the past 2 years, that's what happened in Japan in the 1990s, and that's what happened in this country in 1937. We must learn from this lesson.

In fact, experts say that the Republican budget will result in 2 million fewer American jobs and will decrease economic growth by 1.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, what we have to do is invest in our economy, nation-build here at home in America and in Americans. This is a vehicle for growth. We should not be cutting those kinds of investments.

Austerity is shortsighted, and we should reject it.

STANDING FIRM AGAINST THREATS TO SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, one of the best parts of my job is hearing from the people I serve in the great State of Montana. And while 1 million Montanans offer a lot of different ideas and a lot of different perspectives, there is one concern I hear about every day.

Thousands of Montanans have reached out to my office because they are concerned about recent threats to their Second Amendment rights. Let me be clear: I do not support any efforts that infringe upon Montanans' rights to keep and bear arms. I will continue to stand firm against any proposals that would threaten those rights.

That's why I'm joining Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN and many of my other colleagues in the House in signing a letter to Speaker BOEHNER that makes it clear that we—and the people we represent—are strongly opposed to any efforts that would violate the rights protected by the Second Amendment, and we will reflect that commitment in any vote on legislation that comes before us.

Whether it's so-called "universal background checks" or sweeping bans of firearms owned by thousands of law-abiding Montanans, I will stand firm against any proposal that would threaten Montanans' rights to keep and bear arms.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE LEONARD WILLIAMS

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)